

REMARKS

With this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 32, 39, 43, 47, 51, 55, 63, and 64 are cancelled and new claims 70-75 are added. Therefore, claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, and 65-75 are all the claims currently pending in this Application.

New Claims and Claim Amendments

With this Amendment, Applicants add new claims 70-75 in order more fully to cover various aspects of Applicants' invention as disclosed in the specification. Claims 70 and 73 are supported in the originally-filed specification at least at page 6, lines 5-12. Claims 71 and 74 are supported in the originally-filed specification at least at page 9, lines 12-17. Claims 72 and 75 are supported in the originally-filed specification at least at page 9, lines 20-21.

Claims 1, 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 32, 39, 43, 47, 51, 55, 63, and 64 are cancelled.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31 are amended to depend ultimately from new claim 70.

Claims 33-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, and 65-69 are amended to depend ultimately from new claim 73.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kano (U.S. Patent No. 5,359,513) in view of Hiyama (U.S. Patent 5,379,757).

Applicants submit that new independent claims 70-75 are patentable over the cited combination of references, and claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, and 65-69 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence.

The cited references fail to teach or suggest storing the two or more sets of base image data and attaching the history data to the stored two or more sets of base image data, as recited in claim 70 (see also, claim 73).

The cited references fail to teach or suggest history data comprising one or more of a name of the patient, dates on which the two or more sets of base image data were obtained, an identification number or name of an imaged portion of the patient, and an angle of imaging the patient, as recited in claim 71 (see also claim 74).

The cited references fail to teach or suggest history data comprising one or more of a name of the patient, a date on which the inter-image operation is carried out, an identification number or name of an imaged portion of the patient, and an angle of the imaging of the patient, as recited in claim 71 (see also claim 75).

Therefore, in view of the above allowance of claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-31, 33-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-62, and 65-75 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 09/774,577

Q61225

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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